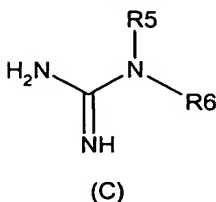


CLAIMS

1. A process wherein the compound of formula (C):



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wherein;

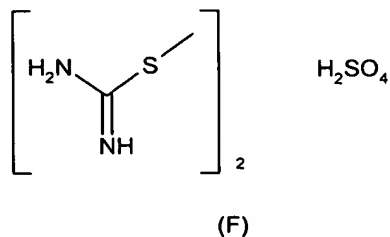
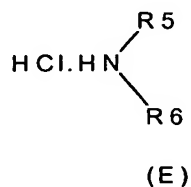
$\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  taken together represent a 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered N-containing heterocyclic ring optionally containing at least one further heteroatom selected from N, O and S, the ring being optionally fused to a benzene ring or a 5- or 6- membered  
 10 heterocyclic ring containing at least one heteroatom selected from N, O and S, the ring system as a whole being optionally substituted by one or more groups independently selected from OH,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkoxy, halogen,  $\text{CONR}^7\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$ ,  $(\text{CH}_2)_b\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$  and  $\text{NHSO}_2(\text{C}_{1-4} \text{ alkyl})$ , and when S is a member of the ring system, it may be substituted by 1 or 2 oxygen atoms;

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$\text{R}^7$  and  $\text{R}^8$  independently represent H or  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkyl, or together with the N atom to which they are attached they may represent a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing at one heteroatom selected from N, O and S; and

20 b represents 0, 1, 2 or 3

is formed by reaction of a compound of formula (E) with a compound of formula (F):



2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> together with the N atom to which they are attached represent a saturated 6-membered N-containing ring which is fused to an optionally substituted benzene or pyridine ring.

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3. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> together with the N atom to which they are attached represent a tetrahydroisoquinoline ring system.

4. A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> together with the N atom to which they are attached represent 5-methylsulfonylamino tetrahydroisoquinoline.

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5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of an aqueous base.

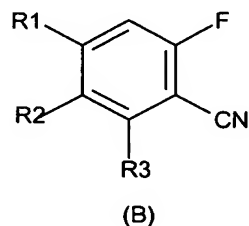
6. A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the aqueous base is sodium hydroxide.

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7. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (C) is *N*-(2-amidino-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-5-isoquinolyl)methanesulfonamide.

8. A process wherein the compound of formula (B):

20



wherein;

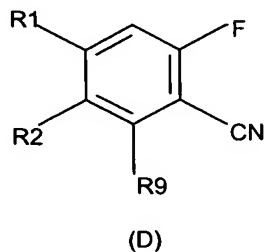
R<sup>1</sup> represents C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

25

R<sup>2</sup> represents H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; are as defined above; and

R<sup>3</sup> represents a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing at least one heteroatom selected from N, O and S, the ring being optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and CF<sub>3</sub>;

5 is formed by reaction of the compound of formula (D):



wherein;

R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above; and

10 R<sup>9</sup> is a leaving group;

with a pyridine derivative.

9. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is iodine.

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10. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the pyridine derivative is a pyridyl boronate.

11. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the reaction is carried out in a polar  
20 aprotic solvent.

12. A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the polar aprotic solvent is dioxane.

13. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the reaction is carried out in the  
25 presence of a catalyst.

14. A process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the catalyst is a palladium (0) catalyst.

15. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the product is 6-fluoro-3,4-dimethoxy-2-(2-pyridyl)benzonitrile.